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(Original Signature of Member)

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. CON. RES. _____

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial
Day.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida submitted the following concurrent resolution; which
was referred to the Committee on _____

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of National Homeless
Persons' Memorial Day.

Whereas more than 500,000 people in the United States do
not have a place to call home each night and half of them
are without shelter;

Whereas nationwide each year, an estimated 2,000,000 peo-
ple experience homelessness;

Whereas adequate housing is essential for healthy families
and communities;

Whereas housing has become increasingly inaccessible due to
rising costs and a shortage of rental and single-family
housing;

Whereas a recent study published in the May 13, 2010, American Journal of Public Health has shown that over 70 percent of people experiencing homelessness have at least one unmet health need and almost half report two or more;

Whereas the mortality rate among homeless populations has been shown to be almost four times that of the general population;

Whereas every member of society, including individuals experiencing homelessness, deserves the dignity of safe, decent, accessible, and affordable housing;

Whereas the President and Congress were presented on June 22, 2010, “Opening Doors: the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness” which describes how the Federal Government will partner with States, local communities, nonprofit organizations, and the private sector;

Whereas remembering that winter poses extreme hardships for inadequately housed low-income men, women, and children across the United States, the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Healthcare for the Homeless Council will hold memorial services on December 21, 2010, for those who die each year because of conditions associated with homelessness;

Whereas December 21, 2010, is the first day of winter and the longest night of the year;

Whereas the spirit of the holiday season provides an opportunity for affirmation and renewal regarding the commitment to ending homelessness and promoting compassion and concern for all, especially the homeless;

Whereas in remembering those who died on the streets, the cause of ending homelessness is kept urgent as is the Na-

tion's collective commitment to preventing such deaths in the future; and

Whereas National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is recognized on December 21, 2010: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate*
2 *concurring)*, That Congress—

3 (1) supports the goals and ideals of National
4 Homeless Persons' Memorial Day, in recognition of
5 the people who have died on the streets, in emergency
6 shelters, condemned or abandoned properties,
7 and from elements directly related to homelessness;

8 (2) encourages the President to issue a proclamation
9 in support of the goals and ideals of National
10 Homeless Persons' Memorial Day;

11 (3) encourages States, territories, possessions of
12 the United States, and localities to support the goals
13 and ideals of National Homeless Persons' Memorial
14 Day by issuing proclamations designating National
15 Homeless Persons' Memorial Day;

16 (4) encourages media organizations to participate
17 in National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day
18 to help educate the public about homelessness in the
19 United States;

20 (5) commends the efforts of the States, territories,
21 and possessions of the United States who

1 support the goals and ideals of National Homeless
2 Persons' Memorial Day;

3 (6) recognizes and reaffirms the Nation's com-
4 mitment to ending homelessness by promoting a
5 comprehensive national response that addresses the
6 housing, health care, income, and civil rights causal
7 factors and consequences of extreme poverty; and

8 (7) acknowledges all of the people in the United
9 States living on the streets who have paid the ulti-
10 mate price for the Nation's failure to end homeless-
11 ness and salutes the dedicated professionals and or-
12 ganizations who provide assistance to people in need.